

Docket No.: 31671-235624

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

International Application No.:

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Masanobu AKIMOTO et al.

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FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 8 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.